Claims

What is claimed is:

1. A computer controlled display system for tracking the development of complex software products having a plurality of developmental lines comprising:

means for setting in each of said plurality of developmental lines, a sequence of checkpoints;

means for tracking each of said developmental lines to determine the reached checkpoints; and

means for displaying said plurality of developmental lines and indicating said reached checkpoints.

2. The computer controlled display system of claim 1 further including:

means for modifying said developmental lines and said checkpoints; and

means for displaying said modifications.

3. The computer controlled display system of claim 2 further including means for displaying at each of said checkpoints, a set of developmental attributes for said checkpoint.

4. The computer controlled display system of claim 3 further including:

means for modifying said developmental attributes for each of said checkpoints; and

means for displaying said modifications at each of said checkpoints.

5. The computer controlled display system of claim 3 wherein said developmental attributes include actions performed in said software product development.

6. The computer controlled display system of claim 5 wherein said means for modifying said actions switch said actions to other of said developmental lines.

7. The computer controlled display system of claim 2 wherein:

said means for tracking are remote from said means for displaying,

and said system further includes:

means for storing, in association with said means for displaying, the data tracked by said means for tracking; and

means for communicating the data tracked to said means for storing.

8. A method for tracking the development of complex software products having a plurality of developmental lines on a computer controlled display comprising:

setting in each of said plurality of developmental lines, a sequence of checkpoints;

tracking each of said developmental lines to determine the reached checkpoints; and

displaying said plurality of developmental lines and indicating said reached checkpoints.

9. The method for tracking of claim 8 further including the steps of:

modifying said developmental lines and said checkpoints; and

displaying said modifications.

10. The method for tracking of claim 9 further including the step of displaying at each of said checkpoints, a set of developmental attributes for said checkpoint.

11. The method for tracking of claim 10 further including the steps of:

modifying said developmental attributes of a plurality of said checkpoints; and

displaying said modifications at each of said modified checkpoints.

12. The method for tracking of claim 10 wherein said developmental attributes include actions performed in said software product development.

13. The method for tracking of claim 12 wherein said step of modifying said actions switches said actions to other of said developmental lines.

14. The method for tracking of claim 9 wherein:

said step of tracking is carried out remote from said displaying step,

and further including the steps of:

storing, in association with said displaying step, the data tracked in said tracking step; and

communicating the data tracked to said storing step.

15. A computer program having code recorded on a computer readable medium for tracking, on a computer controlled display, the development of complex software products having a plurality of developmental lines comprising:

means for setting in each of said plurality of developmental lines, a sequence of checkpoints;

means for tracking each of said developmental lines to determine the reached checkpoints; and

means for displaying said plurality of developmental lines and indicating said reached checkpoints.

16. The computer program of claim 15 further including:

means for modifying said developmental lines and said checkpoints; and

means for displaying said modifications.

17. The computer program of claim 16 further including means for displaying at each of said checkpoints, a set of developmental attributes for said checkpoint.

18. The computer program of claim 17 further including:

means for modifying said developmental attributes for each of said checkpoints; and

means for displaying said modifications at each of said checkpoints.

19. The computer program of claim 17 wherein said developmental attributes include actions performed in said software product development.

20. The computer program of claim 19 wherein said means for modifying said actions switch said actions to other of said developmental lines.

21. The computer program of claim 16 wherein:

said means for tracking are remote from said means for displaying,

and said system further includes:

means for storing, in association with said means for displaying, the data tracked by said means for tracking; and

means for communicating the data tracked to said means for storing.

22. A computer controlled display system for tracking the building of a program product from a functional implementation stage to a complete integrated program product comprising:

a plurality of developmental lines respectively corresponding to each of a plurality of program components to be integrated into said complete program product;

means for setting in each of said plurality of developmental lines, a sequence of checkpoints;

means for tracking each of said developmental lines to determine the reached checkpoints; and

means for displaying said plurality of developmental lines and indicating said reached checkpoints.

23. The computer controlled display system of claim 22 further including means for displaying at each of said checkpoints, a set of attributes for said checkpoint related to the compatibility functions of said checkpoint line.

24. The computer controlled display system of claim 23 further including:

means for modifying said attributes for each of said checkpoints; and

means for displaying said modifications at each of said checkpoints.

25. A method for tracking, on a computer controlled display, the building of a program product from a functional implementation stage to a complete integrated program product comprising:

setting up a plurality of developmental lines respectively corresponding to each of a plurality of program components to be integrated into said complete program product;

setting up in each of said plurality of developmental lines, a sequence of checkpoints;

tracking each of said developmental lines to determine the reached checkpoints; and

displaying said plurality of developmental lines and indicating said reached checkpoints.

26. The method for tracking of claim 25 further including the step of displaying at each of said checkpoints, a set of attributes for said checkpoint related to the compatibility functions of said checkpoint line.

27. The method for tracking of claim 26 further including the steps of:

modifying said attributes for each of said checkpoints; and

displaying said modifications at each of said checkpoints.

28. A computer program having code recorded on a computer readable medium for tracking, on a computer controlled display, the building of a program product from a functional implementation stage to a complete integrated program product comprising:

means for tracking a plurality of developmental lines respectively corresponding to each of a plurality of program components to be integrated into said complete program product;

means for setting in each of said plurality of developmental lines, a sequence of checkpoints;

means for determining the reached checkpoints in each of said plurality of developmental lines; and

means for displaying said plurality of developmental lines and indicating said reached checkpoints.

29. The computer program of claim 28 further including means for displaying at each of said checkpoints, a set of attributes for said checkpoint related to the compatibility functions of said checkpoint line.

30. The computer program of claim 29 further including:

means for modifying said attributes for each of said checkpoints; and

means for displaying said modifications at each of said checkpoints.